

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi,

As members representing North and South Carolina, we write as a catastrophic natural disaster continues to wreak havoc on our constituents.

On the morning of September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina. The immediate storm surge and hurricane-force winds immediately inundated local communities along the coast and caused significant damages. Over the following days, Hurricane Florence continued to slowly move along the North and South Carolina border inflicting catastrophic flooding to inland areas. In the initial 72 hours, areas along the Carolina border saw historic rainfalls that far surpassed previous state records.

To date, Hurricane Florence has taken 32 lives. Over 1.1 million people have been left without power, nearly 20,000 residents have taken refuge in emergency shelters, and search and rescue teams are conducting emergency evacuations around the clock. Hundreds of road closures remain in effect, including major state highways and interstates, which provided essential evacuation functions. Entire communities have been isolated due to severe flooding never before seen in any previous natural disaster. Worse, many of these communities are still recovering from Hurricane Matthew, which inflicted billions of dollars in damages just two years ago.

More than a dozen counties in North and South Carolina have received a Major Disaster declaration from the President, and both states still have a federal emergency declaration in place. We fully expect more counties to be added to the declaration as rivers continue to crest in the days ahead. While the total damage inflicted by Hurricane Florence is yet to be determined, it is clear that additional federal funding will be necessary to address the recovery needs of our constituents.

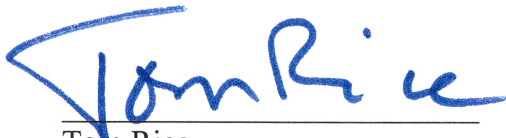
Currently, disaster assistance programs to restore housing damaged by Hurricane Florence are our primary concern. Additionally, flooding from Florence has caused more than 1,200 road closures—including portions of Interstates 95 and 40. Restoring our highway and transportation infrastructure will be critical for our recovery, and we request funding to eliminate the backlog for the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program so that the agency can quickly reimburse our states as they make necessary emergency repairs.

As you know, last year's hurricane season brought historic devastation to the Gulf Coast. In order to immediately respond, Congress approved a down payment of more than \$7.4 billion for

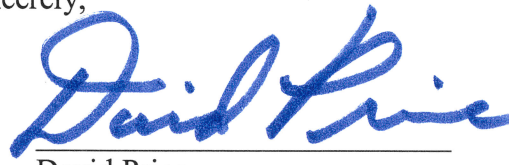
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery. Those initial efforts were followed by a full supplemental appropriations package in subsequent legislation. With this in mind, we are requesting an initial appropriation of CDBG-DR funds in order to expedite the rebuilding and recovery process, which we fully expect will need to be followed by more comprehensive appropriations once the full scope of the damage to our states is known. We are committed to working with you to utilize the most appropriate legislative vehicle in the coming days.

As we continue to assess the full impact of Hurricane Florence on the Carolinas, we ask that you work with our delegations to address long term recovery and resiliency needs regarding housing, infrastructure, economic revitalization, agriculture, and shore protection as well as the needs of many communities that still have not recovered from the storms that have hit our states in previous years. Thank you for your leadership and support.

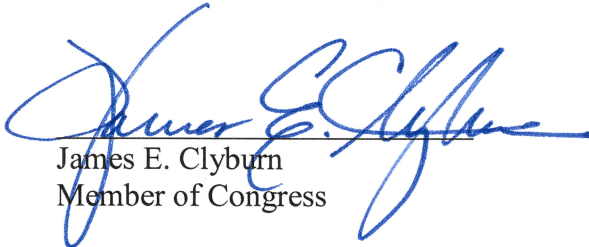
Sincerely,



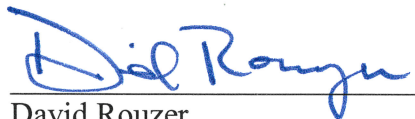
Tom Rice
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



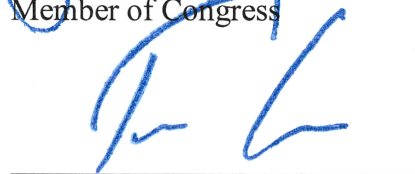
Alma Adams
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



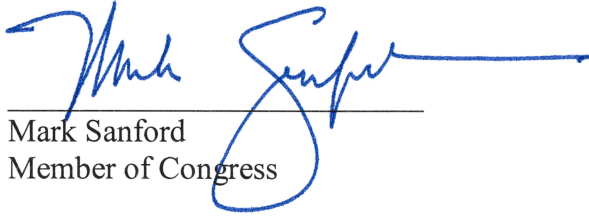
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



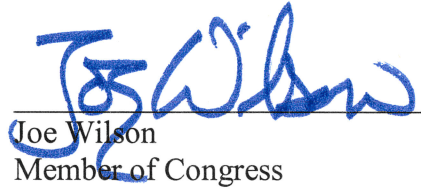
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations